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UNESCO City of  
Literature

## Edinburgh City of Literature *January E-bulletin*

A very Happy New Year to all of you, and welcome to the first E-bulletin of 2006. Speeding rapidly through the calendar, this month's edition lists your February events - including Valentine's Day, of course. Another hot topic for February is the 3rd International Festival of the Middle East: there are numerous events across the city between 8 February and 12 March, several of which are noted in this bulletin. Something also for the address book - City of Literature has a new home. We are now based at 5a Charlotte Square, Edinburgh and the new phone number is 0131 718 5663.

The last Tuesday of the month also happens to be the last day of the month, **Tuesday 31 January**, so we look forward to seeing you at the Traverse Bar from 6pm for the City of Literature 'salon' evening. Programmes for the Festival of the Middle East will be made available, so come along for a drink and a chat while you mull over which events are for you.

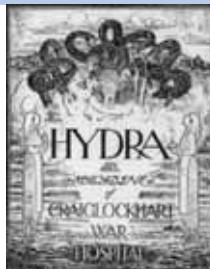
### **Kevin Macneil: Prose and Poetry Tuesday 28 February, 7.30pm Scottish Poetry Library, £3/£2**

Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature is pleased to present **Kevin Macneil** as Writer in Residence for the Festival of the Middle East 2006. Kevin is an award-winning poet, novelist and playwright and is a very engaging performer of his own work. His books include the poetry collection *Love and Zen in the Outer Hebrides* (published by Canongate) and his first novel *The Stornoway Way* (published by Penguin). As a part of his residency, Kevin will also run creative writing workshops, and having immersed himself in as many events as possible he will write a piece of work reflecting on the Festival's themes.

More City of Literature Residencies still to come....

### **Quest for the Hydras**

The *Hydra* was the magazine produced by the patients resident at Craiglockhart Military Hospital during the First World War. Wilfred Owen contributed to the magazine, and took over as editor for the edition of the 4 August 1917, which also records the arrival of Sassoon at the hospital, and the first appearance of one of his poems in print: 'Song of Songs' in the issue dated 1 September 1917. These are obviously significant and important items, and Napier University seeks to add original copies to their War Poets Collection. So - the task is to find original copies, perhaps in archives somewhere, that you know of and we do not. So far, we are aware that there are issues of *The Hydra* held at the English Faculty Library, Oxford. If you know of anyone who might have copies of the *Hydra*, who might donate them to the University, please contact us by email: [Edinburgh@cityofliterature.com](mailto:Edinburgh@cityofliterature.com).



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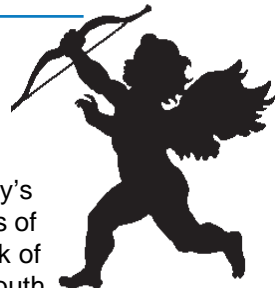
### **Ali Smith wins Whitbread Novel Prize**

Our congratulations to City of Literature Trustee Ali Smith (*pictured*): her first full-length novel, *The Accidental*, has won the Whitbread Novel of the Year award. The Scottish writer beat authors including Salman Rushdie and Nick Hornby to the title. Tash Aw took the first novel award for *The Harmony Silk Factory*, and the overall Book of the Year award went to Hilary Spurling for *The Secret Life of Matisse*.



### ***'Fall in Love with Poetry'***

**Tuesday 14 February, 6-8pm  
with Elspeth Murray at 6.30pm**



An after-hours run of the Poetry Library's shelves, new books within reach, a glass of champagne in your hand – can you think of anything better? Well, let's add wit, youth and charm in the person of performance poet **Elspeth Murray**, to inspire your reading and remind you of poems you've loved. And for booklovers who just haven't come across the right poems, let us try some matchmaking to find you poems you'll adore. Tickets £5/£3. 2 free tickets for book groups.



**WEA (Workers' Educational Association) runs workshops and courses throughout the year, a number of which began last week. Currently running on Tuesdays is a Playwrights' Workshop with Liz Hare; Wednesdays sees Creative Writing with nick-e melville; Thursday celebrates Scottish Literature with Mark Tolmie; and Friday introduces Gaelic: Language, Culture and Song. The latter course is free, with fees for the others at £32/£25. All courses run for 8 weeks and take place at Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket, but please enroll in advance by calling 0131 225 7772.**



## Book Launch: *Scots in the USA*

Wednesday 15 February, 7pm

All over Scotland and the United States there are clues to the Scottish-American relationship, the legacy of centuries of trade and communication. The experiences of Scottish settlers in the United States varied enormously, as did their attitudes to the lifestyles that they left behind and began anew. **Jenni Calder** explains why they left Scotland, where they went once they reached the United States, and what they did when they got there. Tickets available from the Shop in the George IV Bridge Building, or call 623 3845.



## DO YOU HAVE A WEBSITE? WOULD YOU LIKE ONE? SHOULD YOU HAVE ONE? WHY? HOW?

The Society of Authors in Scotland is holding an event about Author websites on **Wednesday 15 March** - and non-members are very welcome. Do you wonder if you should have a website? Do you have one, but wonder if it could work better for you? Is the world worryingly unaware of your genius? Come to learn all the whys, whats and wherefores from the experts, Diana and Steve Kimpton of The Wordpool, [www.wordpooldesign.co.uk](http://www.wordpooldesign.co.uk). Incredibly for internetty people, what they say actually makes sense. Please contact Nicola Morgan at [n@childliteracy.com](mailto:n@childliteracy.com) for booking details.



The Dundee International Book Prize offers a £10,000 cash award, together with publication by Birlinn Ltd, to new writers seeking to break into the publishing world. The award, now running for the fourth time, is for an unpublished novel on any theme and in any genre. Entrants must not have had a novel previously published.

Only one manuscript per person may be entered. Children's novels will not be accepted. The normal length for a novel might be around 80,000 words and each entry must be submitted with a synopsis of no more than 500 words.

Closing date for email entries 1 February 2006.  
Closing date for all other entries is 1 March 2006.

## Day Workshop: *Storytelling Faith to Faith*

Saturday 18 February, 10am - 4pm

Edinburgh Uni Chaplaincy Centre, Bristo Square

Join storyteller Angela Knowles to explore how stories can help build peace, understanding and relationships between different faith traditions. Listen and tell your own stories, learn and share new stories. Contact [angela@thefoolstory.com](mailto:angela@thefoolstory.com) to book, £26/£20. Please bring vegetarian food to share for lunch. A part of the Festival of the Middle East.

## *Shore Poets*

Sunday 29 January, 7.45pm

Kenneth Steven is the guest poet for the evening, with Irene Brown and Allan Crosbie and musicians Stan and Alison Reeves. Tickets on the door: £2/£1. The Canon's Gait pub (downstairs), 232 Canongate. All welcome!

**THEATRE: *How To Kiss***  
Tuesday 21 February  
7.30 pm, £8/£5



After a sell out run at the Traverse Theatre last Autumn, *Theatre Objektiv* are now taking their new visual production to North Edinburgh Arts Centre. *How To Kiss* is a black comedy intensely investigating the twin themes of passion and destruction in lovers' relationships. The play is inspired by poet Pablo Neruda and visual artist Bruce Nauman, blending *Theatre Objektiv's* playful physicality with a striking visual imagination. Be prepared for an inspiring evening of innovative contemporary drama, rarely seen in Edinburgh. For more information and to book, contact North Edinburgh Arts Centre, 15a Pennywell Court, on 0131 315 2151.

## Regular Art Groups: **Writers' Group**

Wednesdays from 8 February  
6.45pm - 8.30pm, £3.50/£2.50

Get together at the North Edinburgh Arts Centre with fellow scribblers to share ideas and inspiration. The group meets fortnightly and will be run by Edinburgh based crime author Lin Anderson.

Scottish PEN Centre's new office is based at The Writers' Museum, Lady Stair's House, Lawnmarket. Contact 0131 226 5590 or [office@scottishpen.org](mailto:office@scottishpen.org) to get in touch. PEN's newly designed interactive website [www.scottishpen.org](http://www.scottishpen.org) goes online from 1 February, so be sure to have a look.



## From Glasgow to Nineveh: people and places in the poetry of Edwin Morgan

Wednesday 15 February, 7.30pm

Edwin Morgan is Scotland's poet laureate, and his writing includes both favourites and surprises for a huge range of readers in Scotland and beyond. Robyn Marsack, the Director of the Scottish Poetry Library, gives this year's John Masefield Lecture for The Poetry Association of Scotland. Entry costs £3/£2, and is free to PAS members. Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate.

**An Evening of the Poetry of  
Hafez  
Tuesday 21 February, 7.30pm**

Jointly organised and hosted by the Middle East Festival and the Poetry Library. Readings from the 14th century Sufi poet of Iran from new translations. Join in conversation Dr Neill Douglas-Klotz with artist Jila Peacock. Scottish Poetry Library: tickets cost £3/£2.



**Poetry Review - 'Meet the Editor'  
Thursday 2 February, 6pm**

The first Scottish launch of an issue from *Poetry Review*, and a great opportunity for poets and readers to meet the journal's new editor, Fiona Sampson. She'll talk about her vision for *Poetry Review*, and invites your questions and comments on editorial policy, what she looks for in submissions, and the nuts and bolts of how to send in work. *Poetry Review*, the oldest and most widely-read poetry journal in the UK, is published by the Poetry Society. Though editorially independent since it was founded by Harold Munro in 1912, the Review shares the Society's aim of "helping poets and poetry thrive in Britain today". **Free but ticketed.** Call 0131 557 2876.

**Commissions**

Confab would like to commission six poets to write a poem for their Hidden City Project taking place in March 2006. Fee is £50.00 per poem. For further info please contact Rachel Jury, [rachel.jury@confab.org.uk](mailto:rachel.jury@confab.org.uk), tel: 07811 394 058, or visit [www.confab.org.uk](http://www.confab.org.uk)



**David Cunningham: *Cloudworld*  
Friday 3 February**

*Imagine a planet entirely covered in clouds...*  
*Cloudworld* is Ayshire-born David Cunningham's first novel for young adults, and he will be present at the South Bridge Shop for an afternoon of reading and signing with local schools.



**Creative Writing Workshop  
with Kevin Macneil**

Saturday 25 February, 2-4pm  
To book, call the Traverse: 0131 228 1404  
Tickets cost £4.

**Visual Arts Scotland  
presents a lunchtime event**

John Burnside and Brian Johnstone in an informal poetry reading on **Saturday 18 February** at 1pm, at the Lower Galleries, Royal Scottish Academy, East Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

John Burnside is also participating in this year's StAnza festival (16-19 March). The festival website is now online at [www.stanzapoetry.org](http://www.stanzapoetry.org)

***Love's Fire* - Performed Reading with Post-show Discussion  
Friday 24 February, 8pm**

A journey into eleventh century Persia to discover the creation of one of the world's most enduring epic love poems. *Love's Fire* by Steven Gaythorpe, Farsi extracts by Dr M T Tabatabai and Mrs M Tabatabai. Part of the Festival of the Middle East at the Traverse. Cost: £4/£2.



Ian Sclater is the editor of Instant, the Edinburgh 'cafe culture' magazine. He wants to feature fiction on a regular basis and would welcome submissions of unpublished material. Ideally, pieces should be between 1,000 and 3,000 words in length and can be on any subject. If you fancy having your work read throughout the Capital's coffee-houses, get in touch with him at [iansclater@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iansclater@yahoo.co.uk). *Please note that at this time Instant is unable to offer payment, though authors retain their own copyright.*

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Scottish crime fiction issue of *CLUES: A Journal of Detection* (the only US academic journal on mystery fiction) seeks to examine the phenomenon of Scottish writers dominating the British crime fiction market. Is the success of Scottish crime fiction attributable to a literary history stretching back to the nineteenth century and beyond, or is it the result of more recent cultural and political developments?

Submissions addressing any aspect of Scottish crime fiction are welcome, but guest editor Gill Plain, University of St. Andrews, would be particularly interested in manuscripts examining the current state of Scottish crime writing and work that considers the scope and definition of a "national" crime genre.

Submissions should include a 50-word abstract and should be approximately 3,300 to 6,000 words. For more details contact Elizabeth Foxwell, Managing Editor, *CLUES: A Journal of Detection* at [clu@heldref.org](mailto:clu@heldref.org). Alternatively, visit [www.heldref.org/clues.php](http://www.heldref.org/clues.php)

**For information, advice and guidance on professional development go to  
[www.literaturetraining.com](http://www.literaturetraining.com)**